

PRESTEIGNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

WELSH DISTRICT

3 FEB 1955

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

for the

YEAR 1952

of the

Medical Officer of Health

Incorporating the

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Presteigne Urban District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

(Incorporating Report of the Sanitary Inspector)

Warden Court,
Presteigne.

To the Chairman and Members of the Presteigne Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the
Health of the Urban District for 1952.

During the year, there has been very good progress
in the Silia Housing Estate, which has done much to
alleviate local housing shortage. Further progress is
needed on reconditioning of old houses to bring them up
to adequate standards.

The water supply has continued satisfactory from
reports of the Analyst.

The general Health of the District has remained
good, and there have been no major epidemics.

My thanks are due to the Surveyor and Sanitary
Inspector for his continued co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
R. JAMES WALKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector T. Kenneth - Duncan, F.V.I.,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Incorporated Surveyor and
Valuer.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	...	...	2718
Population	...	...	1262
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	475
Rateable value of the area	...	...	£4457
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	£17

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF
THE YEAR.

	1951			1952		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
Live births (legitimate)	11	15	26	10	8	18
(illegitimate)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Still births	—	—	—	1	—	1
Deaths (all causes)	7	9	16	6	7	13
Deaths of infants under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile mortality rate		0·00			0·00	
Birth rate (per 1,000 of Pop.)		21·5			14·3	
Still birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)		0·00			52·6	
Death rate (per 1,000 of Pop.)		12·7			12·7	

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F	T	M	F	T
	—	1	1	1	2	3
Cancer	—	1	1	—	—	—
All Infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1	—	—	—
Influenza	—	2	2	—	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	4	4	8	1	3	4
Heart disease	—	—	—	3	—	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	—	1	1	1	1	2
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	—	1	—	—	—
Other defined or ill defined diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total—All Causes	7	9	16	6	7	13
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Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory in Hereford provides the necessary facilities for the area. Special facilities are available at a private Laboratory in Gloucester.

CLINICS. The County Council hold the Child Welfare Clinic on the first Tuesday in each month at the Shirehall, Broad Street.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

WATER. The Presteigne Water Company, Ltd., are the non-statutory suppliers of water to the Urban area. Samples taken during the year showed the supply to be bacteriologically safe after treatment.

In some parts of the area inadequate pressures and lack of supply are experienced and when these are taken up with the Company efforts have been made to overcome them. It is regretted that the gathering grounds of this supply are not satisfactory and that the sole means of treatment is by chlorination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Trouble has been experienced at the outfall works in the Tanyard with excessive silting of the main sewers and on occasion flooding of sewerage into private properties has occurred. The works at the Tanyard are old and would appear to be reaching the end of their useful life.

To attempt to relieve the back pressures which occur at frequent intervals plans have been laid to make a new sewer draining Broad Street and Back Lane areas.

The system of disposal by land filtration on the Leominster road has worked satisfactorily during the year. Constant attention to gutters and ditches has ensured a satisfactory effluent.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. No cases of complaint regarding pollution have been received during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL. The weekly collection of refuse takes place in the town. It is to be regretted that this service is not extended to the rural part of the district as it is felt that this could be arranged at fortnightly intervals at a moderate cost.

REFUSE TIP. Refuse disposal takes place by controlled tipping. The present tip is now nearing the end of its useful life and consideration will have to be given to renting or acquiring further land for tipping in the near future.

On the present site the tip face has always been very deep and this has necessitated very careful control to prevent fire. Careful raking and spreading has always had to be carried out and this in the long run has probably made this site more expensive to reclaim than the more normal.

SANITARY INSPECTION of the AREA.

Inspections—

During the year 270 visits of inspection were made.

Number of Inspections under the Public Health	
and Housing Acts	168
Number of Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937	12
Number of Inspections in connection with	
water supplies	90
Premises and clothing disinfected	2

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	—
Statutory	8
Defects remedied	
Informally	30
Statutory	8

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS: PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for purpose as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	11	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	2	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	13	12	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1			
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.2)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1		1	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1		1	
(a) unsuitable or defective		1			
(c) not separate for sexes		1		1	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork					
Total	4	6	—	3	—

Section D.

HOUSING. During the period covered by this report the progress on the Silia housing estate was maintained. The number of houses completed by the Local Authority is as follows:—

1952	...	18 Houses
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PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. During the year one house was built by a private owner for his own occupation.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS DURING THE PERIOD.

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	168
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	212
2.	Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonable fit for human habitation	100

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE PERIOD.

Proceeding under the Public Health Acts:—

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	84
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Number remedied by informal action	26
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Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners	58
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	Nil
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Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Forty three inspections were carried out during the year.

The good standard of cleanliness of premises and personell that the Council has come to expect from the traders was well maintained. Traders are always willing to co-operate' and suggestions made by the officials of the local authority are always welcomed.

It is felt that the suggestions and the leaflets distributed by the Local Chamber of Commerce to all traders help, in no small measure, to maintain the high standard of which the owners and the local authority are justifiable proud.

